

Filed for intro on 01/13/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 426
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION urging the Governor to include funding for the nationally recognized Child Lures Community Plan in the 1998-1999 budget proposal.

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted in 1996 by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, two-thirds (2/3) of all sex offenders in state prisons attacked children, and one-third (1/3) of their victims were offspring or stepchildren; and

WHEREAS, prior to the commission of their heinous crime(s), approximately one-half (1/2) of all sex offenders had a relationship with the victim as a friend, acquaintance or relative other than offspring; and

WHEREAS, of the 66,482 sex offenders incarcerated in state prisons, 44,552 raped or sexually assaulted children under the age of eighteen (18); and

WHEREAS, child victimizers represent 65.5% of the total state prison population; and

WHEREAS, the Child Lures Community Plan is a comprehensive, community-based approach to preventing child abuse which operates on the premise that when all segments of a community are educated in both awareness and prevention strategies, the community as a whole is safer; and

WHEREAS, the primary focus of the Child Lures Community Plan is to inform adults and children via news media presentations, a booklet entitled "Child Lures Family Guide" and an

800000001

80000001

009504

00950416

extensive school educational program of the types of methods used to isolate and gain access to children by individuals who prey on them; and

WHEREAS, institutions and organizations nationwide that have implemented various Child Lures components over the years include 315 school districts, 97 corporations, 34 hospitals and medical organizations, 33 military bases, 39 law enforcement agencies, 29 government agencies, 160 churches and 161 civic groups; and

WHEREAS, the Child Lures Community Plan has been endorsed by the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, state government should take all prudent and necessary actions to prevent the social, emotional and mental suffering caused by the victimization of innocent children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly most fervently urges and encourages the Governor to include adequate funding for the nationally recognized Child Lures Community Plan in the 1998-1999 fiscal year budget proposal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee.